

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendments. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

REJECTIONS UNDER 35USC103

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-13 and 15-17 stand rejected as obvious over U.S. 4,666,621 and Claims 3, 8 and 14 stand rejected as obvious over '621 in view of U.S. 4,064,061 and U.S. 5,342,436, for reasons of record.

Applicants respectfully traverse all rejections, to the extent they may apply to the claims as amended herewith.

For the sake of brevity, the arguments and case law earlier presented in support of patentability will not be repeated herein. Suffice it to say that said arguments and law apply equally to the now-amended claims.

At the outset, it is noted that none of the cited references teaches or suggests the information element (c) that is recited in each of Claims 1, 6 and 12. It is submitted that this element cannot be ignored by the Examiner when assessing the patentability of the claims.

The claims now in the case require that the sheet comprise regions of high and low density. As disclosed in the specification at page 3, first paragraph, such sheets are preferred herein. As further disclosed at page 9, beginning at line 11, such sheets function by virtue of their ability to hold allergens, dust, lint and other airborne matter.

The '621 patent relates to cleaning wipes which require the presence of an acrylic polymer to suppress linting (Col. 4, l. 1-3). The substrate can have a basis weight in the 1.6-3.0 oz/yd² range (Col. 3, l. 55-56). However, nothing in the reference teaches or suggests the use of substrates having high/low basis weight regions, as now specified in the claims. Importantly, nothing therein teaches or suggests the use of such substrates in an article designed to reduce allergens in the manner of the present invention.

Moreover, nothing in '621 would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the present high/low basis weight sheets in the disclosed wipes for any purpose, much less to remove allergens. Absent such motivation, the reference cannot, as a matter of law, render the present invention obvious under 35USC103. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection on this basis are therefore requested.

Likewise, the combination of '621 with '061 and '436 neither teaches nor suggests the now-claimed invention. The foregoing comments with regard to '621 apply equally to this grounds of rejection.

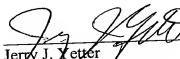
The '061 patent relates solely to cleaning compositions containing stearic acid which are to be used on "cleaning cloths, buffing pads and the like" (Col. 1, l. 5-7). Nothing therein even vaguely suggests the use of high/low basis sheets for any purpose, much less to control allergens. Accordingly, '061 adds nothing to '621 in that regard.

Likewise, '436 relates to a composition which "imparts a protective and sealing finish" to surfaces (Col. 1, l. 18-19). Such composition can be applied using a cloth (Col. 4, l. 20) but there is no disclosure of high/low basis sheets, nor any suggestion of allergen control.

In short, '436 adds nothing to '061 or '621 with regard to those key aspects of the present invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections on this basis are requested.

In light of the amendments to the claims and the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all rejections. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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- (a) a package;
- (b) a cleaning sheet having regions of high basis weight, and low basis weight, wherein said high basis weight is from about 30g/m² to about 120g/m² and said low basis weight is not more than about 80% of said high basis weight, wherein said cleaning sheet is in said package and wherein said cleaning sheet removes allergens from said surface when said sheet is used to wipe said surface; and
- (c) information in association with said package comprising an instruction to use said cleaning sheet in combination with an allergy-related product.



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